

**Commissioner's Weekly Field Memo**  
**Friday, September 2, 2016**

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- 33. *Reminder:* Council seeks public comment on proposed regulations on educator [certification](#); hearing scheduled for **September 22**

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- 34. USED proposes regulations on using Title I funds to [supplement, not supplant](#) state and local funds
- 35. USED, Health and Human Services call on states, districts to help students enroll for [health-care coverage](#)
- 36. *Reminder:* USED provides resources for students on [college](#) selection, FAFSA aid forms

### **From other state agencies**

- 37. State Police Computer Crimes Unit invites students to join [CyberPatriot](#) Competition; deadline, **October 5**

### **From other organizations**

38. "Taking a Stand in History" [National History Day](#) webinar scheduled for **Wednesday** (September 7)
39. [9/11](#) Memorial Museum schedules webinars for students to learn about, commemorate the attacks
40. [Tennis](#) Hall of Fame offers programs for schools
41. Write Rhode Island offers [writing workshops](#) for students, teachers

### **Action Item Calendar**

- September 9 – [School Building Authority](#) applications
- September 16 - [RITEAF](#) forms due
- September 16 – [Facilities](#)-assessment feedback due
- September 23 – *New* deadline for [PSAT](#) test orders
- September 28 – [Special Ed Evaluations - Quarter 1 Due](#)
- September 30 – [Personnel](#) data due
- September 30 – FY 16 [UCOA](#) files due
- September 30 – Presidential Scholars CTE due (see [below](#))
- October 3 – Prayer certification due (see [below](#))
- October 14 – Presidential Scholars nominees due (see [below](#))

### **Notes from Commissioner Wagner**

1. **Back-to-school stories focus on new initiatives, opportunities**

With the start of a new school year, we have seen many back-to-school stories in the media about new initiatives, programs, and issues facing school communities. To give a RIDE perspective on the challenges and opportunities of the coming year, I have submitted a [commentary](#) piece to the Journal and other area newspapers, which several have published or will publish. I also was the guest on [10 News Conference](#), which NBC 10 has posted on its website. Here is the text of the commentary:

We at the Rhode Island Department of Education welcome students and families, teachers, and other school or district leaders to what will be another great year of teaching and learning in our schools.

Thanks to the leadership and support of Governor Raimondo and the General Assembly, we are pleased to let you know about a number of new initiatives for this school year.

This fall, following an additional \$1.2-million investment in early learning, our Rhode Island Pre-kindergarten program opened 12 new sites and now serves children in 11 communities. Also, for the first time, we have 100-percent full-day kindergarten in Rhode Island schools.

Working with our colleagues in the Office of Innovation, we will invest \$260,000 in computer science, with the goal of bringing computer-science instruction to every Rhode Island school by the end of next year. Computer science is both a key skill in the economy and an integral part of the creative fabric of our society. It's time to bring coding out of our garages and basements and into our classrooms so that girls and boys from all Rhode Island communities can help shape the ways we dream, design, build, and grow.

Thanks to our collaboration with colleagues in Commerce, students entering high school this year will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to enter a six-year program, called P-TECH, through which they can earn a high-school diploma, an associate's degree from CCRI, and first-in-line job opportunities with industry partners. New programs open this fall in Newport (Cybersecurity), Providence (software development), and Westerly (manufacturing technology).

Also, our high-school students will be able to take the PSAT and the SAT college-readiness tests at no cost to them – and during the school day. More students attend college when they participate in an early assessment of their college-readiness. In order to make room for these assessments, we cut back required high-school PARCC testing by 50 percent, from two required tests per subject to one required test per subject.

Another great program that's expanding this year, thanks to our collaboration with colleagues in Postsecondary Education, is Governor Raimondo's PrepareRI initiative. High-school students can enroll in courses at any of our three public postsecondary institutions and earn both high-school and college credits, at no cost to them or their families.

Additionally, we are offering a new opportunity for students to enroll in challenging courses through the Advanced Coursework Network. This program includes a selection of about 180 courses from 15 providers. One size doesn't fit all, and the Advanced Coursework Network will provide districts with even more cost-effective ways to offer pathways aligned to student interests.

In order to accomplish all of this work, we will need to further develop cultures of excellence, innovation, and continuous improvement in our schools. Thanks to \$500,000 for leadership support and in partnership with Rhode Island business leaders, we will work with superintendents, school committees, principals, and teachers on building empowered school-based leadership teams. Lasting school improvement is not possible without strong and shared leadership.

Even with all of these investments and initiatives, we know that deep and lasting learning cannot occur unless we nurture the love and joy of our children and their teachers. In fact, love is the only power that can transform our schools from mere buildings into deep and engaged learning communities.

In these angry and noisy times, we must not mistake thoughtfulness and persistence in approach for weakness or timidity. Love is the power that can anchor and transform both our conflicts and our compromises, as we take firm and steady steps toward big and worthy goals. Although we've banished talk of love from our public discourse, we need to place it back where it belongs – front and center, right alongside high standards and expectations, high-quality curriculum and instruction, shared leadership and empowerment, student pathways and school choice, cultures of excellence, innovation and continuous improvement, outcomes and accountability. Our kids, families, and teachers deserve no less than our fearlessness, persistence, and, yes, our love.

We at RIDE wish you a safe and successful school year.

2. **All are invited to celebration of educator excellence at September 24 WaterFire**



This year RIDE will honor Rhode Island educators for their outstanding service and dedication to the education profession and to Rhode Island students at “WaterFire: A Salute to Rhode Island Educators.” This event will be held on Saturday, **September 24**, from 4 to 7:30 p.m., in downtown Providence, at Memorial Park.

All are welcome to attend the celebration to support our Rhode Island educators. This family-oriented event will include an awards ceremony and a procession featuring the honored educators, culminating with a “Ring of Fire” at the basin in downtown Providence.

If you have questions about this event, please email Mary Keenan, at [mary.keenan@ride.ri.gov](mailto:mary.keenan@ride.ri.gov).

3. ***Reminder: School leaders urged to encourage 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student participation in PSATs; deadline is three weeks away!***

The deadline for ordering PSAT booklets for your grade-10 students is just three weeks away.

As you prepare your grade-10 students to take advantage of the opportunity to take the PSAT test for free in October, please note that College Board has reported to us that “students in the class of 2015 who took the PSAT/NMSQT before taking the SAT *had a higher combined score of 134 points*, on average, than students who did not take the PSAT/NMSQT.”

Please see this message from the College Board:

On October 19, districts across Rhode Island can administer the PSAT/NMSQT® to their 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students during the school day, at no cost. Like the SAT®, which will be administered to all Rhode

Island 11<sup>th</sup>-graders in the spring of 2017, the PSAT/NMSQT focuses on what students are already learning in classrooms across the state and measures the skills and knowledge that current research shows are essential for success in college and career.

Taking the PSAT/NMSQT provides students with a great opportunity to practice for and preview the SAT. The test also provides more information than ever before about students' academic strength and areas to target for improvement. Educators can use the results to inform their instructional planning and accelerate students who are either ahead or behind.

Through the College Board partnership with Khan Academy®, students preparing for the PSAT/NMSQT or SAT can take advantage of free, interactive practice tools at [satpractice.org](https://satpractice.org). By setting up and linking their College Board and Khan Academy accounts, students receive personalized practice recommendations based on their own test results.

Taking the PSAT/NMSQT also links students to other benefits, including access to advanced coursework and millions of dollars in scholarships.

Schools and districts should place PSAT/NMSQT orders on the College Board's ordering website: [collegeboard.org/school](https://collegeboard.org/school). The easy-to-use tool walks users through a streamlined ordering process and provides up-to-date statuses for all orders on a single dashboard.

Please [submit your orders](#) for PSAT test booklets by **September 23**.

If you have any questions about the PSAT or SAT administration, please send them to Dr. Kevon Tucker-Seeley ([kevon.tucker-seeley@ride.ri.gov](mailto:kevon.tucker-seeley@ride.ri.gov)).

4. ***Reminder: RIDE announces next steps toward formation of Empowerment Schools***

The 2016 General Assembly enacted the [School and Family Empowerment Act](#), rooted in the belief that if we are going to help all of our children reach their full potential, it will be because we empower the educators closest to students. The Empowerment Act provides educators and community leaders the voluntary opportunity to reimagine and implement their vision for an excellent school by taking advantage of unprecedented levels of school-based autonomy and regulatory flexibility.

Later this fall, RIDE will release detailed information on the process and next steps regarding how districts and educators can volunteer to have their schools become empowerment schools.

Interested in leading an empowerment school? Have a vision for an empowerment school that will provide an excellent, innovative education to Rhode Island students? Please let us know through [this link](#).

We will follow up with you shortly to learn more about your vision and to share opportunities to participate in communities of practice with like-minded leaders. In addition, later this fall we will release information about opportunities for interested educators to both participate in leadership-development experiences and connect with like-minded innovative educators interested in developing and leading an empowerment school.

**From RIDE**

***Schools:***

**5. East Greenwich schools trying later start time for middle school, high school**

This year the East Greenwich Public Schools are trying something new regarding their school calendar: moving the start time for the middle school and the high school back by 30 minutes, to 8 a.m. The goal is to improve school climate and school achievement by providing teenage students with more sleep time. We commend Superintendent Victor Mercurio and his team for doing a great job in examining the issue of later start times for high school, engaging the entire community in the conversation, and developing an excellent and thorough [report](#) on the this issue and on the options that the school committee could consider.

**6. Orlo Avenue School (East Providence) receives Whole Child Recognition Award from RIACSD**

Congratulations to Yanaiza Gallant and her team at the Orlo Avenue School, in East Providence, selected by RIACSD as the recipient of the annual Whole Child Recognition Awards. The RIACSD writes:

Led by self-defined “lead learner,” Principal Yanaiza Gallant, the Orlo Avenue School community operates from a growth mindset and has established a professional learning community with a “laser-like” focus on every student’s achievement. Practices that integrate the Whole Child include an embedded health curriculum with physical activity brain breaks and schoolwide opportunities that promote good nutrition.

There is strong schoolwide emphasis on the role of social and emotional well-being in student achievement and lifelong success. Restorative justice practices help students find meaningful and constructive ways to make amends and participate in the school community. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for

their behaviors. Daily community meetings enable students and staff to commit and engage in the school's agreed-upon core values: respectful, responsible, and cooperative. Principal coffee hours, student advisories, and teachers' surveys are used to provide continuous feedback. There are strong community based connections such as the Foster Grandparents program and the YMCA. A Parenting Partners program helps parents learn about the school culture and explore ways that they can support those messages at home.

Each school year begins with the viewing of *Every Child Deserves A Champion*. A highly detailed Principal's Narrative Quarterly Monitoring Reports highlights major activities undertaken by the Orlo Community to support teaching and learning. These reports celebrate achievement, acknowledge challenges, provide a written account of the schoolwide work, and contribute to the overall energy of the school and evident commitment to support all youth, the Whole Child. Kudos and Bravo to the Orlo Avenue School community on a job very well done.

7. **States establish recovery high schools to help students with addiction**

The Pew Charitable Trusts has published an article about efforts under way in many states to help students with addiction through the establishment of "recovery high schools":

Amid [opioid](#) epidemic, states experiment with recovery high schools (Pew Charitable Trust).

The article does not reference the work under way on this matter in Rhode Island, but we can be proud to be one of the first states to

establish a recovery high school, the [Anchor](#) Learning Academy, whose motto is “Creating Futures and New Beginnings.”

***Students:***

**8. Presidential Scholars Program seeking nominations of outstanding high-school seniors**

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964, and, since that time, the program has honored more than over 7,000 outstanding high-school seniors. The mission of the program is to recognize and honor outstanding high-school seniors and thereby encourage high attainment among all students.

Per the original Executive Order establishing the program, students are selected on the basis of outstanding scholarship. For most of the program’s existence, nominees have been invited to apply for recognition based upon SAT or ACT scores. As the program has grown, candidates have been invited to apply in other ways as well. Beginning in 1979, outstanding students who demonstrated ability and accomplishment in the visual and performing arts or creative writing were added to the program. Since 2013, Chief State School Officers have been invited to nominate candidates from their states for the general component of the program. The program is also partnering with several recognition organizations that each nominate candidates for the general component of the program. And, beginning last year, outstanding students who demonstrate excellence in CTE were included for recognition.

To learn more about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and the Commission on Presidential Scholars, please visit the Commission Web site at: [www.ed.gov/psp](http://www.ed.gov/psp).

RIDE is seeking nominations from all high schools and CTE programs for two categories of Presidential Scholars, as described in the two Field Memo items below.

9. **LEAs asked to nominate high-school seniors for Presidential Scholar award by October 14 – *Action Item***

We are seeking from all Rhode Island high schools nominations of students to be named as 2017 Presidential Scholars. We encourage you to work with your high-school principals and to select one male student and one female student from each high school as your nominees for this award. Here are the criteria, as set forth by the U.S. Department of Education:

We encourage you to nominate students who demonstrate outstanding scholarship but who *might not otherwise be nominated through the current SAT/ACT, Arts, or CTE recognition processes*. All high-school seniors graduating between January and June of 2016 who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible. The candidates will go through the application process, and, as in the past, the 2016 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony in their honor in Washington, D.C.

It may be helpful to consider the following questions as you contemplate the selection of your nominees:

- What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship?

- *Were there special challenges or hurdles this student has overcome while still achieving high academic success?*

In addition, it may be useful for you to know that the reviewers will be considering the following categories when evaluating the nominees at the semifinalist and Scholar evaluation levels:

- involvement and Service (in school and community);
- leadership and character;
- writing samples;
- academic achievements; and
- *discretionary points for extraordinary achievement, heavy workload, family responsibilities, or obstacles overcome.*

Each student you nominate should prepare an application that includes:

- his or her resume, including home mailing address;
- a letter of reference from you or a school official that explains how the student stands out as having outstanding scholarship; and
- a brief (approximately 500 to 750 words) essay that responds to this question: “What special challenges or hurdles have you overcome while still achieving high academic success?”

Please also submit this information for each student you nominate:

- Student’s name
- Student’s home mailing address
- Student’s gender
- Student’s personal email address
- High-school name and mailing address
- High-school CEEB code



We remind you that this last point is particularly important to this nomination process, as these nominations will recognize students who would not be considered for this award based solely on their academic achievement.

Either you or your high-school principal(s) will be our contact in this process. We ask either you or your principals (not the nominated students) to submit your nominations to Lauren McCarthy ([lauren.mccarthy@ride.ri.gov](mailto:lauren.mccarthy@ride.ri.gov)) by **October 14** .

From nominations we receive, we will select up to 20 nominees from Rhode Island (up to 10 male students, 10 female students). We will notify you when we have submitted nominations to the Presidential Scholars Commission, but you will not hear further from us on the nominations.

The Commission will select finalists early next year, and Scholars will be announced in the spring. Scholars will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. For more information about the program, see:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html>

**10. RIDE invites high schools, CTE programs to nominate students for Presidential Scholars awards; deadline, September 30 –  
*Action Item***

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program annually recognizes outstanding students who demonstrate excellence in career and technical education.

RIDE invites you to participate in the nomination process and to recommend for selection as a Presidential Scholar one outstanding CTE student from your center or high school. A committee of

knowledgeable educators will review all recommendations and forward the names of five students to Commissioner Wagner, who will nominate up to five Rhode Island CTE students to the U. S. Commission on Presidential Scholars for consideration for national recognition. The Commission on Presidential Scholars will notify all nominees of their selection and invite them to complete the full application.

It may be helpful to consider the following questions as you contemplate the selection of your recommendation:

- What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship?
- Were there special challenges or hurdles this student has overcome while still achieving high academic success?

In addition, it may be useful for you to know that the national-level reviewers will be considering the following categories when evaluating the nominees at the semifinalist and Scholar evaluation levels:

- Involvement and Service (in school and community);
- Leadership and Character;
- Writing samples;
- Academic achievements; and
- Discretionary points for extraordinary achievement, heavy workload, family responsibilities, or obstacles overcome.

All high-school seniors who are concentrators in a career and technical education (CTE) program of study graduating between *January and June of 2017*, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible. The CTE selection process will evolve over time, but for the 2016-17 class of scholars, candidates who are nominated and choose to apply, and whose applications are

complete, will automatically become semifinalists. All 2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony in their honor in Washington, D.C.

RIDE will send the required recommendation forms to all high-school principals and CTE directors; the forms must be submitted to Sonya Barbosa, at [Sonya.Barbosa@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Sonya.Barbosa@ride.ri.gov), by COB Friday, **September 30**. Address all questions about the CTE Presidential Scholars to Vanessa Cooley, at 222-8438.

***Legal:***

**11. LEAs asked to submit certification regarding Constitutionally Protected Prayer by October 3 – *Action Item***

Each year, we must submit to the U.S. Department of Education a list of any LEAs that have not certified to us their compliance with the Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, which you can find here:

[http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/religionandschools/prayer\\_guidance.html](http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/religionandschools/prayer_guidance.html)

This guidance provides information on current law concerning constitutionally protected prayer in public schools.

As you know, no policy or practice in this state in any way interferes with the constitutionally protected rights of schoolchildren.

Once you have read the guidance, it is required by law that you certify to RIDE annually in writing that no policy in your LEA prevents or otherwise denies participation in constitutionally protected prayer in your schools.

Please send your certification via email to Elliot Krieger, in the Office of the Commissioner, at [elliot.krieger@ride.ri.gov](mailto:elliot.krieger@ride.ri.gov), using the subject line “School Prayer.”

Please submit your certification by Monday, **October 3**.

You may copy this language and use it to make your certification:

**Certification of Compliance with the  
Law on Constitutionally Protected Prayer**

This is to certify that no policy of my LEA prevents or otherwise denies participation in constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools as set forth in the “Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools,” issued February 7, 2003. This assurance applies to the school year 2016-17.

Name:

Name of LEA:

Please feel free to contact Elliot if you have any questions on this matter.

**12. RIDE issues legal advisory on recess**

An attorney asked RIDE for a legal [advisory opinion](#) on interpretation of the new legislation on recess, which requires 20 minutes per school day of recess for students in “elementary grades K through 6. The opinion reads in part:

It is my opinion that §16-22-4.2 extends the BEP requirement of recess to sixth grades only in those instances in which the district considers its sixth grade to be “elementary.” In the case of a K-8 school, that organizing principle may not be readily apparent, but it is still within the purview of the district to determine whether its sixth grade is considered to be an elementary or middle grade.

Legal advisory opinions are nonbinding and are advisory only.

***Innovation:***

**13. The Learning Accelerator launches blended, personalized learning project**

The Learning Accelerator (TLA) has launched its [Blended & Personalized Learning Practices at Work](#) project, a new collection of resources designed specifically for educators and school designers who are implementing blended and personalized learning in their classrooms. The Practices at Work project offers a free, open, and shareable bank of practical teaching and learning strategies that help to bring personalized learning from theory to practice, and they profile [Pleasant View Elementary School](#) (Providence)!

For more information about this project, see:

<http://practices.learningaccelerator.org>; and  
<http://learningaccelerator.org/about-us/news/2016/8/blended-and-personalized-learning-practices-at-work>.

***Conferences:***

**14. RIDE to co-sponsor 19th annual Promising Practices Multicultural Conference at RIC on Saturday November 5**

RIDE is proud to co-sponsor the 19th annual Promising Practices Multicultural Conference on Saturday, **November 5**, presented by the Rhode Island College Dialogue on Diversity. The theme, “Resilience Across the Board: A Strength-Based Approach to Foster Resiliency in All Communities,” will feature best practices, emerging ideas, and current research for developing, nurturing, and sustaining resiliency skills. This conference plays a key role in defining multicultural and diverse education. Through the keynote address and interactive workshops, participants will learn about the power and steps for acknowledging and cultivating resiliency in minority, marginalized, and vulnerable youth, along with extending these ideas and practices to the larger community and through the lifespan. This year’s keynote address will be delivered by Nan Henderson, M.S.W, President of [Resiliency in Action](#). For more information about the conference, please visit <https://www.ric.edu/promisingpractices/>.

Proposals to present at this conference are still being accepted. To submit a proposal, visit the RIC Promising Practices website at <https://www.ric.edu/promisingpractices/>. Please feel free to forward this application to any individual who may be interested.

**15. Registration open for conference on effective instructional practices for kindergarten**

Registration for the Kindergarten Conference is now open. Space is limited and *priority* will be given to kindergarten teachers along with school or district administrators who wish to learn about effective instructional practices for the kindergarten classroom. A waiting list will be maintained for other interested educators and stakeholders who wish to attend the conference. They will be notified on an individual basis if there is a seat for them.

**Date: September 20**

*Time:* 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

*Location:* Paff Auditorium, URI Providence Campus, 80 Washington Street/255 Westminster St.

*Parking:* Passes will be available for those who use the Rhode Island Convention Center Parking Garage, 1 Sabin St, Providence

*Sign-in:* Opens at 8 a.m.

*Lunch:* Lunch will *not* be provided. Please feel free to bring your lunch or frequent one of the many restaurants in the area. Lunch break will be only 1 hour.

Registration Link: or <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZZ6FPHZ>

Featured at the conference will be staff from the renowned Boston Public Schools Early Childhood Department, which has received national attention for the innovative kindergarten curriculum it has developed. Jason Sachs, the head of the department, will deliver the keynote on their success in improving classroom quality in both prekindergarten and kindergarten classrooms in the Boston schools. The staff from the Early Childhood Department will then lead breakout sessions on a number of highly effective instructional practices. The conference will include an administrator track as well.

#### 16. **Conference for teacher assistants scheduled for October 1**

RIDE is sponsoring a day-long conference for teacher assistants on Saturday, **October 1**, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Lincoln Middle School, 152 Jenckes Hill Road. Space is limited, and pre-registration and pre-payment (or purchase order) are necessary. The conference sessions will provide teacher assistants with practical information and strategies that may be implemented within the classroom to support student achievement and success, including managing challenging behaviors, supporting math and ELA at the elementary- and secondary-school levels, using technology, and more.

For more information and registration, see the [2016 Teacher Assistant Conference Flyer](#)

17. **Register today for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Innovation Powered by Technology conference**

The annual R.I. Innovation Powered by Technology conference is less than a month away, and tickets are going fast. Contribute to the Rhode Island working definition of Personalized Learning; connect with fellow educators and leaders redesigning systems within their schools; join students in exciting challenges; be inspired by an open “culture of yes.”

There is something for everyone, with nearly 100 presentations, including:

- 23 sessions sharing *Tools, Apps, Websites, Tech Platforms* schools and teachers can use right away;
- 18 sessions showcasing *Blended and Digital Learning* implementation strategies;
- 16 sessions highlighting *Computer Science for RI* programs and implementation;
- 14 sessions diving deep into *Personalized Learning* strategies and materials;
- 12 sessions focusing on *Strategic Systems Design and Culture Shift*;
- 8 sessions giving *Students Agency and Voice*;
- 4 sessions about *School and Course Choice* programs; and
- 4 sessions digging into *Using Data* in the classroom and school.

There is still time to register today, at <http://ride.ri.gov/conference>.

Please share this link with your colleagues and friends to see which sessions will be most helpful as they begin the new school year.



***Instruction:***

**18. Two-day training, new online modules to be available for science educators**

There are some exciting opportunities and resources available to science educators and district leaders this fall. More detailed information will be forthcoming, but here are some highlights:

***EQulP Rubric Training October 17 and 18 at RIDE***

RISTA and RIDE are partnering to offer a 2-day EQulP training for Rhode Island educators. The EQulP rubric for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) is a tool that was developed by the publisher of the NGSS and is widely regarded as the best way to evaluate instructional resources for their alignment with the new science standards. At this professional learning opportunity, which will be facilitated by two national trainers from Achieve, attendees will receive training in the use of the EQulP rubric to evaluate instructional materials for NGSS alignment and determine how to improve the instructional materials so that they align with the NGSS. For information and to register, please go to this link: <http://www.rista.us/event-2322917> .

***Integrating Practices Online Science and Math Modules***

Coming soon: A new online modules on integrating the Standards for Mathematical Practices and on the Next Generation Science Standards, along with a Leadership Module and supplemental resources, will be available soon to all Rhode Island educators through the [RIDEmap](#) portal. These modules were designed to be used as an online community of practice or as part of a school or district professional-development program. These modules comprise three topics: Leadership, Mathematics, and Science. To access the modules, please log

into [RIDEmap](#) and select the link to the Integrating Practices Online Modules on the right side of the page.

For questions on the above, please email Simone Palmer, at [simone.palmer@ride.ri.gov](mailto:simone.palmer@ride.ri.gov).

#### 19. **Article published on Common Core and reading**

Education Week has published an article about the reading materials available for instruction based on the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts: [Common Core](#) reading materials get mixed reviews.

#### 20. **RIDE schedules workshop on project-based, personalized learning**

In collaboration with Apple Education, we are pleased to announce a workshop for educator teams to actively learn about project-based, personalized-learning strategies. Participant teams will conduct a collaborative, challenge-based learning activity that involves the engineering-design process to find potential solutions to a local Rhode Island problem. This will be a multi-disciplinary activity, aligned with Common Core Mathematics, Common Core English Language Arts, Next Generation Science Standards, and the Rhode Island Grade Span Expectations for Social Studies. All levels are encouraged to attend.

The workshop will occur on Tuesday, **September 13**, from 8 a.m.- 12:30 p.m., at the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative. Registration is free! Participants are encouraged to sign up in teams of 3 or 4.

To register and for additional information, please follow this link: [Personalization in the Science Classroom](#).

If you have questions about this workshop or for further details about the workshop, please email Kate Schulz, at [kate.schulz@ride.ri.gov](mailto:kate.schulz@ride.ri.gov).

### ***Assessments:***

#### **21. RIDE posts graphs that plot 2016 PARCC school performance against school poverty rates**

RIDE has published two “[performance graphs](#)” (one for [English Language Arts](#), the other for [mathematics](#)) on the 2016 PARCC assessment results. These graphs consist of scattergrams, which show, on an x – y axis, the achievement levels (percent meeting expectations) for each school plotted against the poverty levels (percent of low-income students) for each school.

#### **22. RIDE announces SCED codes used for PARCC math**

The following SCED codes will be used to assign algebra and geometry PARCC tests to students:

02052 = Algebra 1  
02054 = Algebra 1 – Part 2  
02056 = Algebra 2  
02072 = Geometry

Please verify that that the SCED codes listed above are assigned to your associated math courses. If these codes are not assigned to the courses above, then enrolled student will be incorrectly assigned a PARCC math test that is associated with the wrong SCED code. You can look for course-specific SCED codes on the [ED.gov website](#) to replace the codes above on non-PARCC math courses.

#### **23. Timelines established for alternate assessments**

Here are the current timelines for the alternate assessments Rhode Island will administer:

*RIAA Science:*

- Current: District and School Reports for RIAA Science are available in the NARS online system.
- **Thursday** (September 8): RIAA Science Student Reports will be mailed to LEAs along with the parent letter. LEAs should make arrangements to mail student reports to parents as soon as possible.
- **September 9:** RIAA Science datafolios will be mailed to LEAs. Please make arrangements to distribute datafolios as soon as they are received. Please visit <http://www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/Assessment/AlternateAssessments.aspx#3521152-riaa> to download the Datafolio Retention Policy.

Details and dates for this year's administration of RIAA Science in grades 4, 8, and 11 are forthcoming. As details are confirmed, they will be distributed through this listserv within the next two weeks.

*Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) ELA and Mathematics:*

- *Current:* District, school, and student data are be available through the MSAA online website until **September 16**. *Access is restricted to district administrators only.* LEA administrators with logins and passwords to the MSAA site used for testing will be able to use the same logins and passwords to retrieve assessment data. If you forgot your password and need it to be reset, please contact the MSAA Help Desk, at: ([866](tel:8668348879)) [834-8879](tel:8348879).

- *Current:* Printed MSAA student reports will be mailed to LEAs. LEAs should make arrangements to mail student reports to parents as soon as possible.
- **March 27 - May 12, 2017:** Test window for the MSAA in ELA and mathematics, grades 3 through 8 and grade 11. Self-paced training modules and in-person training will be available in February. Registration information for the in-person sessions will be sent out via this listserv in late January or early February.

### ***School Facilities and Finance:***

#### **24. Efficient buildings information session to be held on Wednesday (September 7)**

The Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank and the Office of Energy Resources, in collaboration with the School Building Authority at the RIDE, are pleased to announce Round 2 of the Efficient Buildings Fund (EBF) and invite you to an EBF information session on **Wednesday** (September 7), from 8:30-10:00 a.m., at T.F. Green Airport, in the Mary Brennan Board Room. We encourage finance directors and facility managers to attend. Please RSVP to [Rachel.Sholly@energy.ri.gov](mailto:Rachel.Sholly@energy.ri.gov).

The EBF provides low-cost financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for facilities owned by municipalities, school districts, and quasi-public agencies. The Office of Energy Resources will begin accepting Round 2 applications this month, and this information session will provide you and your staff with background information on the EBF, a review of the application requirements and processes, as well as the program timeline and key dates.

### ***Data Collection:***

#### **25. LEAs asked to review Data Collection Calendar regularly**

The [Data Collection Calendar](#) contains all of the open and due dates for data collections and report submissions. In response to updates by external entities, these dates may change as the school year progresses. Please review the calendar on a regular basis in order to remain compliant with data submissions.

If you have any questions about the Data Collections Calendar, please submit a help-desk ticket, at <https://support.ride.ri.gov>

**26. LEAs asked to review, adjust as needed eRIDE and RIDEmap application roles**

The beginning of the school year is a good time to review and adjust the roles that administrators and teachers have within the RIDEmap and eRIDE applications. The LEA Single Sign-On administrator is the point of contact for assigning and modifying RIDE application roles.

If you have any questions about RIDE applications and roles, please submit a help-desk ticket, at <https://support.ride.ri.gov>

**27. LEAs urged to upload enrollment data soon for accurate information on students participating in Alternate Assessment**

The Alternate Assessment window is quickly approaching, which means that data on participating students will need to be loaded into that assessment platform. Please submit your most current enrollment data as soon as possible. Remember, enrollment is a nightly collection and you have the ability to continually update enrollment data throughout the year.

**28. *Reminder:* Enrollment Census is now open**

The [enrollment census](#) is now open. Please remember that you will need to update and sign off on your grade configuration before you will be able to upload your enrollment file.

If you have any questions about the enrollment census, please submit a help-desk ticket, at <https://support.ride.ri.gov>.

29. ***Reminder: LEAs asked to keep School Profile data up to date***

The School Profile module within eRIDE is used to collect detailed information on districts and schools. It is important that this information is kept up to date throughout the year, as the Assessment, Communications, the Master Directory and other systems rely on these data.

If you have any questions about the school profile or master directory, please submit a help-desk ticket, at <https://support.ride.ri.gov>.

30. ***Reminder: Enrollment Census updated to account for students attending state-funded pre-kindergarten***

We have added an additional enrollment type to the enrollment census: You should use the “E” value for students in a state-funded preschool classroom. You should use this code only for those students enrolled in a state-funded pre-kindergarten classroom that was funded by a Preschool Expansion grant.

If you have any questions about this new enrollment type, please submit a help-desk ticket, at <https://support.ride.ri.gov>.

31. ***Reminder: Several data collections are open, due this month***

The following are upcoming data-collection deadlines:

- September 28: [Special Ed Evaluations - Quarter 1 Due](#)
- September 30: [Personnel Data Collection \(PDC\) - Due](#)

Information about upcoming data collections can be found on the [data collection calendar](#). Weekly collection [webinars](#) provide details regarding upcoming collections, along with a question-and-answer feature.

### ***Public Hearings:***

#### **32. *Reminder:* RIDE accepting comment through September 15 on Secondary School Regulations; 2 hearings on calendar**

The current draft of Secondary School Regulations, which the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education gave preliminary approval to on May 17, are now undergoing the formal process for recording public comment. Public comment will be open through **September 15**. All interested parties are invited to participate in the public hearings and submit written comments concerning the proposed regulations from through September 15.

You can find draft Secondary School Regulations and other supporting documents can be found at:

<http://sos.ri.gov/documents/archives/regdocs/holding/DESE/Board%20of%20Education%20Secondary%20Regulations%20-%20Public%20Notice.pdf>

We have scheduled public hearings on the proposed regulations:

- **Tuesday** (September 6), at 5:30 p.m., at the Warwick Public Library, Room 101, Large Meeting Room, 600 Sandy Lane
- **Monday**, September 12, at 5:30 p.m., at the University of Rhode Island, Providence Campus, Room 501;, 80 Washington Street/255 Westminster Street



The hearing locations are accessible to those with disabilities, and interpreter services for those with hearing impairment will be provided if requested 48 hours before the hearing. Requests for this service can be made in writing or by calling Sonya Barbosa, at 222- 8463 or RI Relay (800) 745-5555.

Written comments may be submitted to Sonya Barbosa, at the R.I. Department of Education, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, R.I. 02903 or at [Secondary@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Secondary@ride.ri.gov) or by fax, to 222-6178.

**33. *Reminder: Council seeks public comment on proposed regulations on educator certification; hearing scheduled for September 22***

The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education is seeking public comment on [amended regulations](#) intended to provide more flexibility to school districts as well as to eliminate barriers when school districts are seeking qualified teachers for school-district positions. On June 28, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approved for public comment for the proposed draft revisions to the Board of Education Regulations governing the certification for educators in Rhode Island.

The proposed changes would:

- eliminate the Substitute Permit and the accompanying yearly fee, which would make the process more feasible for those interested in working in districts as substitute teachers. The revenue lost would be at the expense of the General Fund, not RIDE;
- eliminate the Athletic Coach Permit, which would not lower the standards for coaches being hired by school districts. The Interscholastic League requires that coaches hold valid CPR and First Aid certification and that they complete the Foundations of

Coaching and concussion courses. RIDE would require the same process for Athletic Coach Permit eligibility. This change would move the responsibility to the district, ensuring that Athletic Coaches meet the eligibility requirements set by the Interscholastic League, and this change would remove the redundancy of coaches' having to repeat these assurances to RIDE, the Interscholastic League, and the school district; and

- change the Career and Technical Certification, which would move the current one-year preliminary certificate to a six-year preliminary certificate. This change would allow the Career-Technical Education (CTE) experts and CTE professionals to transition into the field of teaching and work toward full certification over a six-year period of time, without coming to RIDE on a yearly basis. This requirement has been a barrier for many who are moving from their technical fields in to the field of education.

The proposed draft regulations are available for public inspection in person at the RIDE, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, you can request a copy by contacting at [Angela.Teixeira@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Angela.Teixeira@ride.ri.gov) or 222-8435.

A public hearing on the proposed draft regulations will take place on Thursday, **September 22**, at 5:30 p.m., at the Shepard Building (Room 501), 80 Washington St./255 Westminster St., Providence.

### **From the U.S. Department of Education (USED)**

#### **34. USED proposes regulations on using Title I funds to supplement, not supplant state and local funds**

The U.S. Department of Education has released proposed regulations to implement the requirement in Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as recently revised by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), that federal funds must supplement, and may not supplant,

state and local funds. The USED has posted a [fact sheet](#) on the proposed regulations.

35. **USED, Health and Human Services call on states, districts to help students enroll for health-care coverage**

As students begin the new school year, the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are calling on states and districts to help enroll students in health-care coverage during school registration processes and ensure students have access to the health coverage they need. The USED has posted a [news release](#) on this initiative, with links to a toolkit on insuring all students.

36. ***Reminder:* USED provides resources for students on college selection, FAFSA aid forms**

The USED has developed and posted a [College Scorecard](#) that students can use as a resource in selecting colleges and for information on paying for college. The USED has also posted information reminding high-school students that they can fill out their [FAFSA](#) college-aid forms 3 months earlier this year: **October 1**.

**From other state agencies**

37. **State Police Computer Crimes Unit invites students to join CyberPatriot Competition; deadline, October 5**

The Rhode Island Joint Cyber Task Force, led by the Rhode Island State Police Computer Crimes Unit, is once again looking for middle- and high-school students interested in computers, computer science, and cybersecurity (or any related field) to participate in the annual CyberPatriot Competition.

CyberPatriot is a competition for middle- and high-school students who are interested in information-security related fields. Students form teams that can meet either during or after school (depending on the school's preference or schedule) to learn and practice basic networking principles. Starting in November, they compete once a month to try and identify and fix vulnerabilities in a pretend ("virtual") network.

As an avid supporter of this program, the State Police, along with Congressman Langevin and Senator Whitehouse, we want to encourage schools with interested students to participate in this year's competition. There is a small registration fee, which we can help alleviate, and we can help match you up with a technical mentor who can work with the students if you cannot readily identify someone in or associated with your school. If you have the students but need any other assistance, please let us know, as there are lots of resources we can match you up with.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, you can visit the CyberPatriot website (<https://www.uscyberpatriot.org/>) or contact Meghan Martinez ([meghan.martinez@risp.gov](mailto:meghan.martinez@risp.gov) or 444-1718) for more information and assistance. The deadline to register teams is **October 5**. If you can help us identify the students, we can help with the rest!

### **From other organizations**

#### **38. "Taking a Stand in History" National History Day webinar scheduled for Wednesday (September 7)**

Social studies teachers: kick off the 2017 National History Day Contest with a webinar devoted to the annual theme, Taking A Stand in History. Experts from the White House Historical Association, the National Archives, and National History Day will answer questions and provide

sample topics. The webinar will take place on **Wednesday** (September 7), at 7 p.m. Participation is free; please register at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3555593381679946498>.

National History Day Rhode Island is an affiliate of National History Day. National History Day (NHD) is a highly regarded academic program for elementary- and secondary-school students.

Each year, more than half-a-million students, encouraged by thousands of teachers nationwide, participate in the NHD contest. Students choose historical topics related to a theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research through libraries, archives, museums, oral history interviews, and historic sites. After analyzing and interpreting their sources and drawing conclusions about their topics' significance in history, students present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances, and documentaries. These products are entered into competitions in the spring at local, state, and national levels, where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators. The program culminates in the Kenneth E. Behring National Contest each June, held at the University of Maryland at College Park. For more information, go to <https://nhd.org/>.

In addition to discovering the exciting world of the past, NHD also helps students develop the following attributes that are critical for future success:

- critical thinking and problem-solving skills;
- research and reading skills;
- oral and written communication and presentation skills;
- self-esteem and confidence; and

- a sense of responsibility for and involvement in the democratic process.

More than 5 million students have gone on to careers in business, law, medicine, and countless other disciplines where they are putting into practice what they learned through NHD.

**39. 9/11 Memorial Museum schedules webinars for students to learn about, commemorate the attacks**

As a part of our commitment to education, the 9/11 Memorial Museum invites teachers and students from across the country to participate in a live webinar to commemorate the 15th anniversary of 9/11. This *free* program, broadcast live from the 9/11 Memorial Museum, connects students and teachers from all 50 states with museum staff and guest speakers to learn about the attacks and the importance of commemoration.

The program will be broadcast live on Monday, September 12 at 10 a.m. and Tuesday, September 13, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. It will also be recorded and available online for classes that miss the live broadcast.

Participants will be introduced to the Memorial & Museum, learn about 9/11, and hear from Ada Dolch, the former principal of Leadership and Public Service High School in lower Manhattan. Ada was responsible for safely evacuating her students on 9/11 at the same time her sister, Wendy Wakeford, was at work on the 105th floor of the North Tower. In 2005, Ada helped establish a school in Afghanistan in memory of her sister, who was killed. For more information about Ada's story, click [here](#). Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers during the 40-minute webinar.

Register at [911memorial.org/schoolswebinar](http://911memorial.org/schoolswebinar)

For more information, visit [911memorial.org/webinar](http://911memorial.org/webinar) or contact the Education Programs Staff at [anniversaryintheschools@911memorial.org](mailto:anniversaryintheschools@911memorial.org).

40. **Tennis Hall of Fame offers programs for schools**

The Museum at the International Tennis Hall of Fame offers opportunities for students and teachers. Programs promote curriculum-based learning and a healthy lifestyle through exploration of the Hall of Fame's world-class museum collection and multi-media exhibitions. Free admission is offered for all children 16 and under. Programs that are available include Women in Tennis (Social Studies Grades 7-8), Game, Set Math Mathematics Grades 5-6), Barnstorm Like a Tennis Player (Geography Grades 3-4), and The Science of Tennis (Science Grades 6-8). More programs on the way. Take a field trip to the museum or schedule a visit from the Hall of Fame to your school. For more information, visit [www.tennisfame.com/museum-and-grounds/education](http://www.tennisfame.com/museum-and-grounds/education) or contact Doug Stark, Museum Director, at [dstark@tennisfame.com](mailto:dstark@tennisfame.com) or 849-3990.

41. **Write Rhode Island offers writing workshops for students, teachers**

With September marking the kick-off of School One and Goat Hill's inaugural Write Rhode Island short-fiction competition for Rhode Island students in grades 8-12, the group is hoping to get local youth excited and spur entries by hosting free creative writing workshops at the Peace Dale Public Library. Three workshops are scheduled—September 19, 26, October 3—each beginning at 6 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Contact: Brandi Fong at: [bfong@skpl.org](mailto:bfong@skpl.org) or [789-1555 ext. 108](tel:789-1555) to register.

As part of Write Rhode Island, Goat Hill (goathillwriters) will be offering a free workshop at Barnes & Noble, Warwick. This is geared

toward teachers who may be interested in incorporating short-story writing into their curriculum. It's a *free* workshop as part of Educator Appreciation Week, on Wednesday, October 12, at 6 p.m. For information, call Katie, at [826-8885](tel:826-8885).

The goal of Write Rhode Island is to promote and celebrate student writing by incorporating Rhode Island as a theme in a creative piece of prose. The competition is open to all public, private, parochial, or home-school students throughout the Ocean State. Winners in various categories by grade level will receive prizes, awards, and an opportunity to be published. The deadline to submit a piece is Saturday, December 10, and additional information and full competition guidelines can be found at [www.school-one.org](http://www.school-one.org). Winners will be announced in Spring 2017.

As part of the competition, the free creative writing workshops will be led by authors and teaching artists who will provide support to spur student writing and participation in the contest. While the workshops are free, participants are asked to register in advance by calling Abby Porter, at 625-6796.

For more information, including a full list of available workshops, visit [www.school-one.org](http://www.school-one.org) or contact Diana Champa, at 331-2497 or [dianac@school-one.org](mailto:dianac@school-one.org).

***RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:***

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/InsideRIDE/FieldMemos.aspx>